

AN ADDRESS
ON THE HISTORY OF
The Society of the Alumni
OF THE
University of Pennsylvania
BY
HENRY BUDD, Esq.,
Delivered April 6th, 1896,
AT
HOUSTON HALL,
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

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UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA,

APRIL 6th, 1896.

HENRY BUDD, Esq.

Dear Sir :—The undersigned, on behalf of the hearers of your address on the history of the Society of the Alumni of the University of Pennsylvania, read this evening at Houston Hall, ask permission to print it, so that it may thus be made part of the permanent record of the Society.

Yours truly,

J. G. ROSENGARTEN,
GEO. S. FULLERTON,
GREGORY B. KEEN,
CHAS. C. HARRISON,
E. P. CHEYNEY.

At the regular meeting of the Board of Managers of the SOCIETY OF THE ALUMNI OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, held Thursday, May 21st, 1896, on motion it was resolved that Mr. Henry Budd be requested to permit the Society to publish his address, delivered at Houston Hall, April 6th, 1896.

E. P. CHEYNEY,

Recording Secretary.

ADDRESS.

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN :—The hall in which we meet to-night is a touching memorial of the love of a father to a son, shown in the way of which that son, if living, would have most approved.

We are assembled to celebrate, upon the invitation of its President, the granting of a charter to a society which has existed for many years before seeking to be clothed upon by the State with corporate authority and privilege.

Both the place and the occasion therefore naturally, irresistibly, cause one who has been asked to speak to you of the history of the Society of the Alumni of the University of Pennsylvania, to let his thoughts dwell for a time upon the changes in the fortune of the University, made manifest by her present appearance and recalled by the recollection of her past history. And stupendous these changes

seem to those of us who, more than a quarter of a century ago, were sent forth from under her fostering care with her benediction upon us and her charge to quit ourselves not unworthily, for the honour of our mother was in our keeping. Stupendous—and yet natural, for she has always borne in her the seeds of sound learning, the seeds of truth and faith, which even in her days of struggle, of adversity, even when the victim of popular tyranny and spoilation, enabled her to hold her head proudly among the best, and carried with them the assurance of eventual triumph; and with them went that high and holy sense of responsibility which in her days of highest glory kept and keep her from being vainglorious and boastful, from being content to rest, to enjoy, rather than drive deeper her foundations and extend her borders—so that she has fulfilled the behest

*Si fortuna juvat, caveto tolli;
Si fortuna tonat, caveto mergi.*

In his address, delivered before the Society of the Alumni on the eve of the commencement of 1836, Thomas I. Wharton, of the class of 1807, said:

“Nothing in this part of the world is allowed to grow old, or, at all events, our antiquity is of a different

cast from that of Europe. We have no ivy-mantled towers or time-honored walls, few spots consecrated by poetry or endeared to us by recollections. Every thing that man has erected must by man be pulled down or reformed or enlarged or, in some way, altered to suit the changing taste of the times, and even the face of nature, so to speak, is daily undergoing alterations to make room for buildings and streets, or to accommodate the unpoetical levels of canals and railroads. * * * * To this spirit of improvement it is owing that we, whose Alma Mater is the University of Pennsylvania, must be content with abstract and spiritualized affections, and that in coming together on this occasion most of us look in vain for those material objects with which our collegiate recollections are associated. Within my own remembrance there have been three several edifices successively the seat of the University and the resort of its students. The old building on Fourth street, which wore something of the grave and reverend aspect of a seat of learning, and both from its east and west front looked down upon the depositaries of the dead; the more modern and stately edifice which was designed for the residence of the Chief Magistrate of the Republic, but never actually occupied by that

functionary, and the present recent erection which is doubtless better fitted for the purposes of instruction, whatever may be its architectural beauty. We come here, therefore, gentlemen, with reminiscences of the scenes of our collegiate life as various as the buildings in which it was passed."

So spoke the orator of the Alumni in 1836, and since his time there has been another and a greater change. And the contrast between the two buildings on Ninth street, with the modest campus between them, on which no sports or games were permitted, and the city of study, with its lecture halls, libraries, museums, laboratories, hospitals, club houses, athletic grounds, which has, since 1868, grown up on this side of the Schuylkill, is one striking in the extreme—but, gentlemen, "Home," says the old proverb, "is where the heart is," and while many of us who are present knew, as students, only the old buildings on Ninth street,—and dear to us they were!—and some present may have formed part of the transitional classes, and many have known only these stately halls and imposing, well-appointed buildings, yet we are one family and one love unites us. As *Æneas* looked forward with love to the Rome which he was never to see, and the Romans looked back with love

to the Troy from whence their ancestors were driven, and of which every vestige was swept from the earth, so, gentlemen of the more recent classes, mere boys who have been graduated within the past twenty-five years or so, we, who antedate as Bachelors that time, love every stone of the new buildings, sacred to you by intimate personal association, and we believe that you, and the generations yet to come, love, and will love, the old buildings on Ninth street, for the sake of those who have gone before, with whom you have that strange yet real oneness which springs from graduation from the care of the same Alma Mater—and we all of us look forward to the constant, steady, solid growth of our dear college, who has done for us more than we can ever do for her.

As the time at which it was my good fortune to be in college was that just before the laying of the corner-stone of the first of the present buildings, and may, therefore, be regarded as the culmination of the Ninth street era, one may speak of it as it was then. In the college proper, we had eight professors who were members of the governing faculty, a professor of the fine arts, an instructor in mathematics, and three professors of the modern languages, who were not members of the faculty and who were afterward

replaced by instructors. The curriculum was a full one and admirably arranged for the general student ; "specials" were scarcely known in those days, and the list of "partial" students at the end of the catalogue included not only the men who were really partial but conditioned men, who appeared on that list until they had made up their work and were again printed with their classes. We may not have gone so far in some directions, especially in science, as the students of the present day are taken ; for example, quaternions were *terra incognita* to us (and I venture to say so remain to most), our mathematics went no further than the differential and integral calculus and astronomy ; but we had as satisfactory Latin and Greek courses as at present, read as much as, or probably more than, the average student of to-day, had courses in metaphysics, morals, history, literature, chemistry, mechanics, constitutional and international law, natural theology, logic, rhetoric, and, under the influence of the war, were taught fortification. Nearly all of these studies, practically all, were, until the college year 1867-8, compulsory upon every candidate for a degree. The modern languages, until the same time, and the fine arts, were voluntary, and were not allowed to count in the course for a degree. Of ath-

letics we knew little; we played cricket and, I am bound to say, played it well, a little base-ball, and made a very poor showing at it; but we had to go far afield for a place in which to play, for had we attempted a game of ball upon the campus, it would have ended with a summons of the players to appear before the faculty. Occasionally, the medical students and the college men would engage in a snow-ball fight, and summonses I know followed at least one occasion of that kind. The main rivalry in college was that between the two literary societies, each striving to capture the greater number of desirable Freshmen in the second term, for, by a regulation of the faculty, Freshmen were not to be initiated during the first term—the dogs of war were muzzled until after the Christmas examinations. Our occasions of interest, other than Commencement, were Junior Exhibition, Class Day and the annual or biennial orations before the Philomathean and Zelosophic societies. We had plenty of speech making by students in those days, you may rest assured.

All this, doubtless, sounds very humble, very tame, to the present generation of students; with their newspapers and magazines published in the University; with their professors by the hundred; with their

boating contests attracting attention all over the country and keeping the public press in a state of nervous unrest, until the momentous question where the "four-cornered regatta" is to be rowed is settled, while the composition of prospective base-ball nines and foot-ball elevens are discussed in the newspapers for months in advance of the season, and the pictures of successful, and even promising, athletes are spread broad-cast by their pages ; with a museum of great interest ; with a grand library building taking the place of the simple room that was ours, with books tenfold in number those of the old library ; with expeditions carrying the name of our University to the far East, and displays of results attained by her commanding, not only respect, but the highest admiration in that land whose universities were, centuries ago, among the first in Europe ; and yet, even in the time between 1865 and 1872, the college of the University was a noble, a grand institution ; grand not only on account of her traditions, but grand by reason of her faculty, for in it were strong men, earnest teachers, profound scholars, polished gentlemen. Two of the professors of my own time the students of the present day know and receive instruction from their lips, as did their fathers before them.

One other, the professor of history and English literature, still lives an active and honored life, devoted to his chosen studies, outside the walls of the University for whose advancement, both intellectual and material, he has done so much (for let us never forget that it is to Professor Charles J. Stillé that the transfer of the University to its present site is mainly due), and still, by his writings, teaches that subject which he made so interesting to us by the lectures delivered from his Chair. But other giants are gone
Coppee, Frazer, Allen! *Eheu!*

But let me, craving your pardon for this retrospect, of a few years only, turn to that which is the theme assigned me for this evening and, leaving the college, its faculty and its students, turn to the Alumni—the associated Alumni.

Exactly when an Alumni Association was first organized is not certain. There are rumors and even statements concerning an association in the far past, but nothing definite or authoritative with regard to the existence of any society prior to the year 1836. In that year, we know with certainty that Thomas I. Wharton delivered an oration before the Association of the Alumni of the University of Pennsylvania and, as appears by the page prefixed to the printed

copy of the address, Thomas Biddle, Esq., Professor Henry Reed, President Judge Thomas M. Pettit and Dr. Robert M. Patterson were active members of the society. No minutes or other notes of the proceedings of the association have been preserved, so far as is known to the University authorities or to the officers of the present society, and, in 1848, we find the formal organization of the Society of the Alumni, as of June 9th, 1848. A roll of membership was opened, and gentlemen joining the society were, so late as 1872, required to sign the constitution. The first signature upon the roll is that of Anthony Morris, class of 1783, followed by Thomas Biddle, 1791; Thomas M. White, 1795; Bayse Newcomb, 1799; John M'Allister, Jr., 1803; Robert M. Patterson, 1807. Since 1872 the requirement that the constitution should be signed has been dispensed with.

The officers elected at the meeting of 1848 were : President, Professor Henry Reed, 1825; Vice-Presidents, Dr. Geo. B. Wood, 1815; the Hon. George Sharswood, 1828; Professor James C. Booth, 1829; Professor John F. Frazer, 1830; Corresponding Secretary, M. Russell Thayer, Esq., 1840; Recording Secretary, Rev. S. Moore Shute, 1844; Treasurer, Dr. Horace Evans, 1828; Managers, Dr. Isaac Hays, 1816; Dr.

Joseph Carson, 1826; Dr. George W. Norris, 1827; Charles E. Lex, Esq., 1831; John W. Faries, 1831; Rev. Kingston Goddard, 1833; Rev. W. H. Odenheimer, 1835; George L. Buzby, Esq., 1837; Dr. Francis G. Smith, 1837; Theodore Cuyler, Esq., 1838; Henry D. Gregory, 1838; Dr. S. Keen Ashton, 1841; Horatio Gates Jones, Jr., Esq., 1841; Dr. Grayson M. Prevost, 1842; Dr. David J. Johnson, 1843; John B. Gest, Esq., 1844; Dr. Elias E. Wilson, 1844; John M. Collins, Esq., 1845; William Rotch Wister, Esq., 1846; William Arthur Jackson, 1847. Of these gentlemen two still remain upon our list of officers, Dr. John W. Faries, one of the Vice-Presidents, and Mr. Gest, President, until he declined reëlection, and now a Manager, to whom the society is greatly indebted, not only for his activity in bringing about the organization of 1848, but for his steady, untiring interest and labors since that time. Besides these, there are two whom we had hoped to have with us this evening, W. Rotch Wister, Esq., and a man whom all Philadelphia delights to honor, from whose lips we have heard and received the law (and long may we continue to do so!), and who, upon the floor of Congress, has given us a representative of whose industry, elo-

quence and courage Philadelphia has reason to be proud—the Hon. M. Russell Thayer.

The society was fortunate, indeed, in its President; he was a representative of University and of Philadelphia scholarship; his works rank amongst the first of literary criticism in the United States; some of his lectures one reads over and over with ever increasing admiration and delight, while the charm of his nature speaks through them, and gives the reader some faint idea of what must have been the delight of actual intercourse with that man, with whom Dr. Arnold, of Rugby, was glad to correspond, and who was welcomed to England, as a kindred spirit, by its brightest minds. Professor Reed remained President, by annual reelection, until 1853, the eve of his departure upon his fatal trip to Europe, when he was succeeded by Charles E. Lex, Esq., that excellent lawyer and good man, endeared to so many in this community, who have received the benefit of his Christian instruction. Mr. Lex retired from the presidency in 1867, and was succeeded by the Hon. F. Carroll Brewster, who resigned the office in 1872, when the Hon. George Sharswood became President.

Let us pause here for a moment, for Chief Justice Sharswood is one of the great ones in the legal his-

tory of Pennsylvania. His name is worthily written with those of Tilghman and Gibson. He was a judge of the first rank, especially great at *nisi prius*, where to succeed requires a rare combination of qualities, quick comprehension of fact, profound knowledge of law, prompt decision in applying the law to the state of facts, especially in passing upon questions of evidence, clearness of expression and lucidity of arrangement in presenting the cause to the jury after the arguments of counsel have been heard. He was a legal scholar, a jurist whose opinions and writings have left their mark on the development of the jurisprudence of this country, an honorable gentleman, the recognized authority upon professional ethics, a kind friend, ever considerate of and gentle to the young and weak at the bar, but never deterred by the strength or reputation of the advocate before him from striking through sophisms or pretence.

“Thy converse drew us with delight,
 The men of rath and riper years ;
 The feeble soul, a haunt of fears,
 Forgot his weakness in thy sight.

“On thee the loyal hearted hung,
 The proud was half disarmed of pride ;
 Nor cared the serpent at thy side
 To flicker with his double tongue.”

These lines might well have been applied to Judge Sharswood. He was a political economist, a well-read theologian, an elegant belles-lettres scholar, a devoted son of his Alma Mater, interested warmly in education. Perhaps he was unable, as his writings show, to sympathize with the modern system of teaching so many, many things in so short a time and so early in a man's life—too often it is to be feared *non multum sed multa*; but he confessed that he must submit to see his ideas pushed to one side as being not those of the age. In proof of this, listen to the last paragraph of Judge Sharswood's address to the Alumni in 1869: "Thus I have endeavored, very imperfectly I am aware, to illustrate and enforce a very old opinion, but still true, that there is no royal road to learning; that hurrying and crowding and cramming are injurious, if not fatal, to the vigor of mind as well as of body. They may seem to most persons as the groans of an old fogy. Steam and magnetism have conquered time and space in the material world—it is natural that the same urgency *to get on* should prevail in the domain of mind. For my part I prefer to travel slowly—to notice the features of the country through which I am passing—to admire the beauty of its landscapes, the smiling comforts

of its homes, and to enjoy the invigorating effects of the exercise. But in these days it is not possible. I cannot afford the expense of a private carriage, and there are no lines of stages even, on the thoroughfares connecting our large cities. If I wish to visit the commercial metropolis I must needs be whirled along in a close and crowded railroad car at the rate of half a mile a minute, and every such minute running the imminent risk of being shivered to atoms. If there is within my hearing one old fogy who sympathizes with me, I may be allowed to single him out and thus address him: My dear old friend, what are you and I to do? There is nothing to be done but to submit gracefully, to shut our eyes and be carried along with the current, or perhaps I ought to say the torrent: *cumulo præruptus aquæ mons.*"

Judge Sharswood held the presidency until his death, which occurred in 1882, shortly after his retirement from the bench. He was succeeded by another scholar and jurist, one in whose composition the domination of the historical and juridical scholar over the lawyer was much more pronounced than in the case of Judge Sharswood—John William Wallace, the distinguished reporter of the decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States at one of the

most interesting periods of our judicial and constitutional history, and the author of that delightful product of learning, research and critical acumen, lightened here and there by a ray of genuine though quiet humour, "The Reporters."

Mr. Wallace's term of office was very short; he died before the expiration of the year for which he was elected.

John B. Gest, Esq., succeeded Mr. Wallace, and held office until 1891, when, declining reelection, he was succeeded by Effingham B. Morris, Esq., who was, in 1893, succeeded by George Tucker Bispham, Esq., and at the last election, Joseph G. Rosengarten, Esq., who had declined to permit his name to be used in 1893, accepted the office to which he was elected by the society, and which he now holds.

Time forbids that even a list of the Vice-Presidents should be recited in your hearing, but the names of a few may be mentioned: John Faries Frazer, that sterling man of science, the distinguished lawyer and elegant scholar, the Hon. Henry D. Gilpin, the Hon. Wm. B. Reed, the Hon. Joseph R. Ludlow, that great judge, that model of judicial industry, integrity and courage, John Cadwalader, William Henry Rawle, Alfred G. Baker, and that

gallant soldier, courtly and accomplished gentleman, the commander of that noble division of sons of his own State, in that struggle upon her own soil, which was the turning point of the civil war—Samuel Wylie Crawford.

The object of the society was thus set forth in the preamble to the constitution, adopted in 1848: “The object of this Association shall be to sustain and advance the interests of the University of Pennsylvania and to cherish feelings of brotherhood and amity among its graduates.”

Let us see what it has done to carry out its object. In the first place, it provided for the delivery of an annual oration before the society, and, for a long time, the selection of an orator was rendered obligatory by the constitution; and fortunate, indeed, was the society in the selection made by it from among the sons of the college of those who, year after year, addressed the assembled Alumni. Thomas I. Wharton, William B. Reed, Henry D. Gilpin, William M. Meredith, George Sharswood, George M. Wharton, Henry H. Smith, Alfred Stillé, M. Russell Thayer, F. Carroll Brewster, Richard Newton, John Cadwalader, Charles J. Ingersoll, Edwin E. Harwood, Henry E. Montgomery, Thomas M. Pettit, John McClin-

tock, Persifor F. Smith, have all addressed the Alumni from the rostrum of the old college hall in Ninth street, which some of us remember so well, with its platform, ornamented by Rittenhouse's orrery, the old corner-stone built into the recess in the south wall, the few pictures of departed worthies hanging on the walls, the little gallery over the main entrance door, in which the musicians were placed, as in the dancing halls of some of the old palaces.

I have mentioned the old corner-stone. That stone has a connection with the history of the society, for it owed its position in the old hall, used indifferently as a chapel, an exhibition-room, and even as a banqueting hall, to the efforts of the society. In the minutes of the meeting of July 2d, 1849, we find the following report made by the Board of Managers:

“The Board have also to report that in consequence of an application by their chairman, the corner-stone of the former University building, which was erected by the State of Pennsylvania as a mansion for the President of the United States, has been replaced in the college. For the restoration of this interesting relic, having a well-known and instructive inscription, the Board is indebted to the liberality and courtesy of Messrs. John and William Struthers.

The corner-stone was sent to the Board of Trustees, with a request that it should be preserved in some conspicuous place in the college hall.

“(Signed), HENRY REED, *Chairman.*”

The stone is now in the present college; it has, you see, taken the place, to us, of Lares and Penates.

After the abandonment of the Ninth street buildings, the custom of the annual address seems to have been discontinued, but one solemnly elected orator having addressed the Alumni in the present chapel, Henry Morton of the class of 1857, President of Stevens Institute.

The society held its meetings at first on the eve of Commencement. Afterward, by an amendment passed in 1850, the 13th day of November, that being the day upon which, in 1749, the original thirty-six trustees met and signed the fundamental rules for the Institution of the Philadelphia College, Academy and Charitable School, was fixed as the Anniversary Day of the society. The meetings were held upon this date for many years, and at times, it is sad to say, the numbers attending were small indeed, often so small that an ordinary recitation room

afforded ample accommodations, but those who came were loyal sons of Pennsylvania.

“Exigui numero sed bello vivida virtus.”

In 1871, the time of meeting was changed to Commencement Day and, a little later, to the present time, the night of Commencement Day, and the crowds that now attend and listen to the reports of the progress of their Alma Mater, the achievements of her students and the policy of her governors, and make her halls again vocal with college song, are a convincing proof of the wisdom of the change.

From very early times the society had its festivities—sometimes the formal dinner, sometimes the collation, as at present, and in early times the formality was perhaps more marked and the eating, drinking and speaking claimed a greater share of the attention of an Alumnus than at present. In proof of a portion of this statement let us turn to the printed account of the dinner of 1849, the centennial anniversary of the University. The oration had been delivered on November 13th by the Hon. Wm. B. Reed. The pamphlet proceeds :

“The commemoration was continued on the day following by a dinner at the Columbia House, the

Hon. Henry D. Gilpin presided, assisted by the Hon. Thomas M. Pettit, the Hon. George Sharswood and George M. Wharton, Esq. After a blessing by the Provost (Dr. Ludlow), Mr. Gilpin addressed the Alumni, and the following regular toasts were given :—

(1) Our Alma Mater; (2) The Memory of Benjamin Franklin; (3) The Society of the Alumni, responded to by Professor Henry Reed; (4) The Oldest Living Graduate, Samuel Miller, D. D., class of 1789—in response to this toast, Horatio Gates Jones, Esq., read two letters from Dr. Miller; (5) Thomas Biddle, the Oldest Graduate Living in Philadelphia, responded to by Mr. Biddle; (6) Dear Philadelphia; (7) The Orator of this Year, responded to by Mr. Reed, who gave at the conclusion of his speech this sentiment: “The crown jewels of Philadelphia, her charities, her science, her scholarship and her historic fame—they are bright enough for her sons to be proud to show them;” (8) The Faculty of Arts, responded to by Professor J. F. Frazer; (9) Samuel B. Wylie, D. D., Emeritus Professor of the Greek and Latin Languages—a letter from Dr. Wylie was read; (10) The Class of 1819, responded to by the Hon. Robert J. Walker; (11) The Absent Alumni; (12) “Woman, a Mistress of Arts who robs the Bach-

elor of his degree and forces him to study philosophy by means of curtain lectures."

Twelve regular toasts, but more to come, and more eloquence to be poured forth! Here is a list of the volunteer toasts: By W. B. Reed, The Trustees of the University; by the Rev. Kingston Goddard, The Graduates of the University of Pennsylvania; by George Emlen, Esq., Alexander Dallas Bache; by J. Reese Fry, Esq., The Medical Profession, responded to by Dr. Joseph Carson; by Dr. Carson, The Memory of Dr. John Morgan; by M. Russell Thayer, Esq., The Memory of Charles Kirkham; by John B. Gest, Esq., The Future Law School of the University of Pennsylvania; by J. B. Reynolds, Esq., The Rev. Dr. William Smith, the first Provost; by Dr J. L. Ludlow, The Rev. Dr. Ewing, the second Provost; by W. Arthur Jackson, The Alumni Professors, responded to by Professor Reed; by Horatio Gates Jones, Esq., The Hon. George Sharswood; by George Harding, Esq., The Class of 1838, responded to by Theodore Cuyler, Esq.; by Mr. Cuyler, The Rev. Dr. Ludlow, Provost; by the Hon. Jos. M. Doran, The Memory of Rev. Dr. Beasley; by James R. Ludlow, Esq., The University of Penn-

sylvania ; by J. P. Montgomery, Esq., Pennsylvania ; by Dr. Elias E. Wilson, The Philamathean and Zelosophic Societies ; by Caldwell K. Biddle, Esq., Our Alma Mater ; by M. Russell Thayer, Esq., Professor Roswell Park.

All of these toasts were accompanied by appropriate "sentiments." Nineteen volunteer toasts ! and the report adds: "During the evening various other toasts were given, and speeches delivered by many of the graduates, but our already extended report forbids even a sketch of what was said. Thus closed the anniversary of the first centenary of our University."

Perhaps a verse descriptive of an evening in the Abbey of Croyland, leaving out of consideration the melancholy occasion of the remark about to be quoted, might, with a very slight change, have been well applied to that now famous banquet of 1849—

" But not for that their revels those jovial souls forbore,
But they cried, ' Fill high the goblet, we must drink to one saint more ! ' "

In this connection, I may speak of one other dinner of the society, that of 1869, which was served in the old college hall, and was presided over by the Hon. F. Carroll Brewster, which I mention on account of an amusing incident. Judge Brewster announced

a toast, "The Ladies," when up rose a gentleman who claimed the right, as perhaps the oldest man in the room, to reply to the toast, and made a capital speech. When he had concluded, the chairman said: "Before proceeding to the next toast, it is only proper that we should express our gratitude to the gentleman who has just responded to the last one, and your gratitude will be all the greater when you learn that he was *not* the gentleman who was expected to reply." It is to be hoped that the speaker who was selected, but who did *not* speak, was, at least, given the solace which is extended to silent orators in Congress—leave to print.

One of the first needs of the college, in the opinion of the society, was a catalogue of the Alumni. No such catalogue had ever been issued by the authorities of the University. Accordingly, a committee composed of Messrs. John B. Gest, John W. Faries and Elias E. Wilson was appointed to compile a catalogue. The result was the Alumni catalogue of 1849; a meagre affair, compared to what we have had since, but still the beginning of our catalogues and of great value. In 1858, another committee was appointed but its work does not seem to have brought forth results. A subsequently appointed committee pub-

lished the catalogue of 1877, which was much more complete than its predecessor. In 1880, another and improved catalogue appeared, but the crowning work of this character is the well known matriculate catalogue of 1893, prepared by the committee of which Dr. Persifor Frazer was chairman.

Another matter which early presented itself to the consideration of the society was the desirability of an increased representation of the Alumni in the Board of Trustees. The Board was in 1850, and for some time after, a little too much of the traditional close corporation; it had upon it too few men bound by the recollections of undergraduate days to the college, men who would not feel themselves merely trustees, charged with the proper conduct of an educational institution, but bound up in its traditions, its interests of all kinds, its reputation, whether serious or sportive, part of themselves. Indeed, at one time it seemed as though to be a graduate of the college were a disqualification for election as trustee, or, at least, a handicap placed upon a candidate for that office. Things have changed now; not only have the Alumni direct representation upon the Board of Trustees by means of the right of nomination vested in the Central Committee by the statutes of the Univer-

sity, but the trustees have shown an increasing willingness to fill the vacancies, which are entirely within their control, by the election of college men, and in the catalogue of 1895-6 we find the names of eleven college men in the list of the trustees.

A direction in which Alumni activity would naturally be expected to develop is in the establishment of prizes. Accordingly, we find that in 1859 the foundation of a Latin prose composition prize was directed. In 1867 the prize for the best original declamation by a member of the junior class was established, in 1894 the amount of this prize was increased and a second prize added. In 1895, at the request of Professor Gurdeman, the Board of Managers decided to offer a second Latin essay prize, and appointed a committee upon the subject. The outcome of this appointment was the establishment of two more prizes, a Latin and a Greek prize, which were founded in memory of Professor Allen, not by the society, but by a member of the committee, who now fills the office of President.

The society has not been unmindful of those now departed, who, in their lives, rendered distinguished services to the University, or endeared themselves to her students ; and many memorials tell from the present buildings of the gratitude of University

men to those who have gone before, expressed through the medium of the society. The fund for the Franklin window was raised by a committee of the society, and it was raised in so short a time that the committee continued and extended its labors, and presented to the University, beside the Franklin window, two others, memorials of Rittenhouse and of Henry Reed—and it was peculiarly fitting that the oration on the formal presentation of these and other windows should have been delivered by the Hon. James R. Ludlow, of the Class of 1843, a son of a former Provost.

Among the other memorials, there are three, especially rich in suggestion of reminiscence to the men who have been connected with this society for twenty-five years and over. I mean the Frazer, Allen and Krauth memorials.

The Frazer memorial is the picture of Vice-Provost John Fries Frazer, which was presented to the University at the Commencement of 1873, and which brings so strongly before our eyes the features of that learned professor, that man of strong, rugged intellect, of uncompromising honesty, who served the University so long and faithfully in her, to us, old buildings, who lived just long enough to enter upon

work in the new edifice, when he fell dead within her halls. If ever a man died in harness it was Professor Frazer, and his memory is dear to us, for in spite of his sometimes rough wit, of which many of us have felt the sting, he possessed a strange power of drawing out the affection of young men, for there was no malice, no intentional unkindness in his nature, and he was so thoroughly a *man!*

The Krauth memorial comprises the picture of that accomplished metaphysician and gentleman, Vice-Provost Charles P. Krauth, and the alcove of books upon the subjects with which his name will ever be associated in the history of the University.

But the Allen memorial has an interest all its own. It consists of Professor Allen's own books, purchased many of them in his life time and the remainder from his estate after his death; a tribute of which he was conscious before he died; a memorial now that he has gone from us. Could there be anything more appropriate? The books which were his companions, which he consulted, which he loved, now speak and shall speak of him to generation after generation of students. They handle his books, they read what he has read, they have access to those works which helped to make him the scholar and the

man he was. But, nevertheless, Professor Allen's truest memorial is in the hearts of those who enjoyed the privilege of his instruction. As the minds of those who were students between 1845 and 1876 (for so long did George Allen occupy a chair in the University) go back to their college days, I think that they will all agree that the most picturesque, and one of the dearest figures of those times was that of Professor Allen. He looked the scholar! Even now how easy it is to bring him before the mind's eye. He sits at his desk in his recitation room, seeming to enjoy the perusal of the great author in his hand, whether Xenophon, Demosthenes, *Aeschylus* or Theocritus, in spite of the sad outrages done him by the translator, who sometimes seems as though he had done all he could to destroy the spirit and crush out the very life of the text. With gentle voice the professor interposes with a suggestion or a correction, at once helping the honest, although blundering, student, and shielding the author, now in the hands of foe or of injudicious friend, from too great wrong. He explains, he teaches, he gives ideas, he has a rare faculty of interesting his class, and how his class reverences him, who, even of the most uproariously inclined students, ever thinks of creating a disorder in

Allen's room—and, out of hours, how approachable is this same man; how delightful in his intercourse with students—how accomplished in matters other than those with which he is especially charged—a Shakesperean scholar of unusual ability, research and knowledge; an excellent musician, and withal so modest, so unassuming!

I think all of us will agree that few who met Professor Allen but casually, knew how great a man he was, and few even of those who saw him daily appreciated him at his full worth; but now, as we look back, how his figure seems to grow, and how we recognize the fact that to have been a student of the University of Pennsylvania while George Allen filled one of its chairs was a rare privilege.

Besides its share in the memorials mentioned, the society has coöperated in the raising of a fund for the erection of an Alumni hall or theatre, which, still far from adequate for the fulfillment of its purpose, remains on deposit and in pledges awaiting an increase.

The society for a time maintained, in coöperation with its younger sisters, the societies of the law and medical departments, the Penn Monthly, so that it has in a way brought itself into touch with the

general literary world; while in social extra-University life, the University club of Philadelphia owes its origin to a resolution of the society, introduced by Mr. John Neill, under which a committee of five was appointed which, with the coöperation, invited by itself, in obedience to the mandate of the Board of Managers, of representatives of Harvard, Yale, Princeton and Trinity founded the club.

It would never do in an account of anything connected with a college in these modern days, to altogether omit athletics, and no society of Alumni would be worthy of the name, or fulfil the popular expectation, which did not, in some way, encourage the undergraduates in winning fame for their Alma Mater in manly sports. It must be confessed, however, that the society, in its corporate capacity, was a little tardy in extending encouragement to the athletic department of University work. No mention of athletics appears upon its minutes until, in 1879, a resolution was adopted, on motion of Professor E. Coppée Mitchell, giving the managers' approval to a concert by the Glee Club, for the benefit of the crew selected to row in the Childs' cup race of 1880. In 1883, the board "heard with pleasure of the proposal to establish a department of physical culture, and of the appro-

priation by the trustees of ground for an athletic field." In 1887, a committee was appointed, on motion of, I think, Mr. McCollin, to take into consideration the question of recognizing, in some practical and appropriate way, the Athletic Association of the University. On the report of this committee, the present Alumni athletic prizes were established.

I have now, I think, given a résumé of the principal apparent work done by the society of the Alumni; but its chief work is not the apparent work, that which is recorded upon the minutes of the society, or appears manifest by brick and mortar, by painting or book. Its great work has been the fostering and intensifying of a spirit of loyalty to our Alma Mater, by gathering together her sons who have gone out into the world, gathering them either by their mother's fireside or in places far distant from it, that they may recall together old times, old joys, old trials, old glories; that they may be informed of what is going on in that household by whose rules they are no longer bound, to whose discipline they are no longer subject, but which they still love, and, with an access of love, derived from association and a common memory, go forth to spread the reputation of the University, to aid it in their individual capacities.

And a glorious thing, indeed, to aid, is our Alma Mater! What a privilege it is to be permitted to help in her work, and how she has, by her constant, steady progress, rewarded the affection of her children! How blessed in her have been the efforts of so many men, spent during so many years, in the cause of sound learning! The catalogue of 1850-51 shows, exclusive of pupils in the academy and charity schools, 611 students, of whom but 95 were in the college. The catalogue of this year shows 2632 students, of whom 871 are credited to the college department; deducting those taking the special course for teachers, 690 are in college. In the earlier year the faculty of arts embraced six professors, and there were in the college four professors not members of the faculty—ten in all. The present catalogue shows in the college, 47 faculty professors, 53 instructors, and 8 lecturers—108 in all. The entire teaching staff of the University appears by the catalogue of 1850-51, to have been 24, including two assistant lecturers in the medical department. The present staff numbers 251. Where before, the college men were practically confined to the old classical and mathematical course, there are now courses almost as many in number as there are different tastes. But numbers and variety are not

everything, and it sometimes seems, as we look at the different colleges and universities throughout the country, that there is some danger that the important part which the classics should bear in the formation of character and the true cultivation of the mind, may be lost sight of. This is due, doubtless, to the struggle to hastily attain what is called the practical, from which has arisen a tendency to subordinate all studies to the getting on in life. Led by this, the oldest university of our land has within a few years reduced materially the amount of time required to be given to the study of Greek in order to obtain a degree and, within a few days, the newspapers have announced that a sister college, the next I believe in age to our own, has determined that Greek shall not be required, either for admission or for the degree of Bachelor of Arts.

Examples of this kind are sad. Let us not forget that, after all, the great object of the college is not to make skilful physicians, successful business men, acute lawyers—but men of thought, men of character, men qualified to bear their part honestly, ably, in any walk of life in which their lot may be cast, because they have the great substratum of a trained moral and intellectual nature upon which to rear

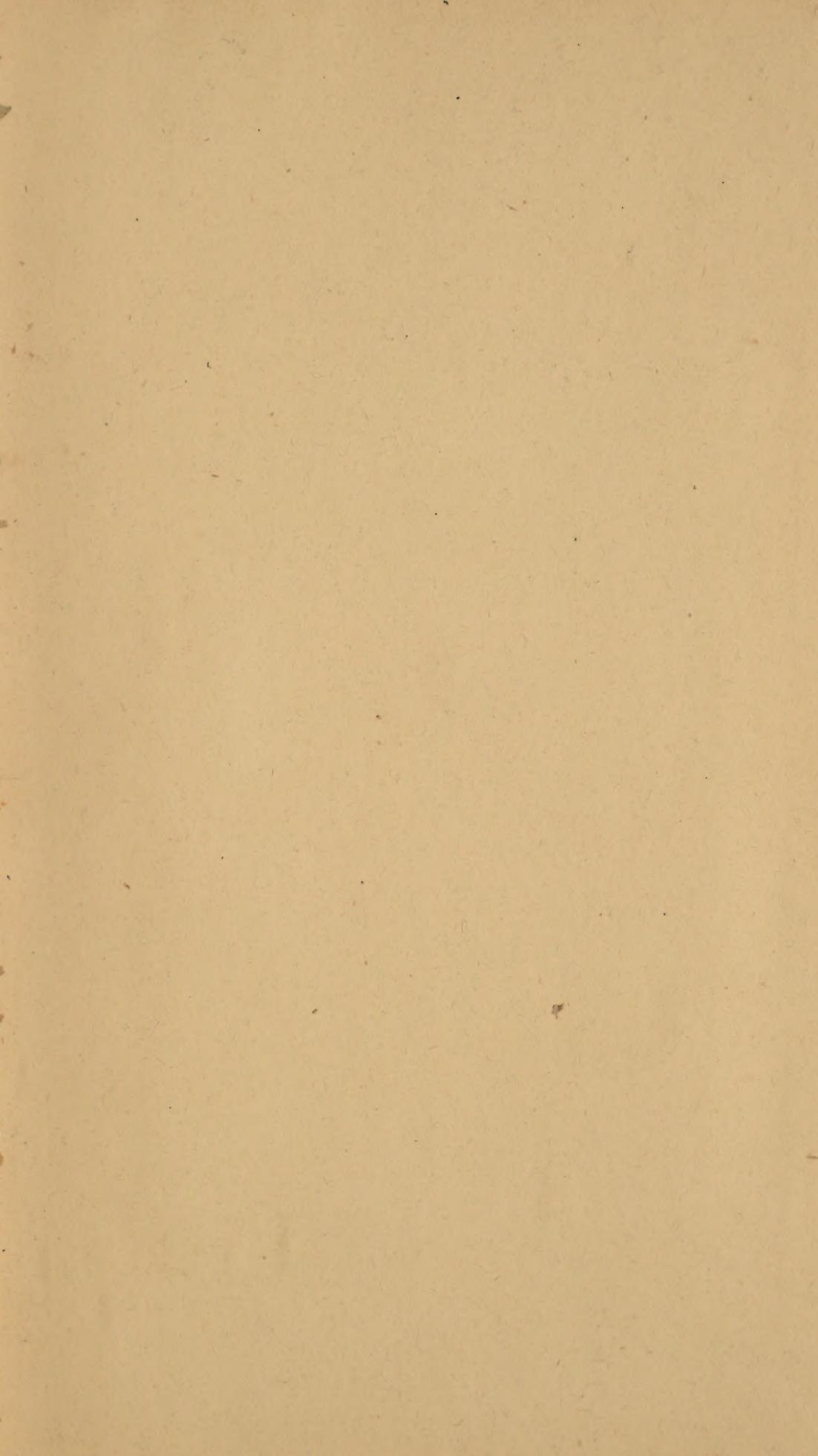
the edifice of their life's work. The classics and mathematics are invaluable as a training—the very fact that they present difficulties of a serious character to be overcome, and require honest effort on the part of the student, braces him for future conflict; the refined distinctions of language which he must observe in rendering the meaning of an author, render his mind more acute, more observant; the beauties of the authors themselves fill his mind at the formative period with noble thoughts, and instil into him, unconsciously to himself, the spirit of poetry which lightens his cares, and affords to him a harbor of rest, a haven from trouble, from whence he may go forth, refreshed and strengthened, again to encounter the storms, the tempests of life.

It is, therefore, gentlemen, a matter of the most sincere congratulation that not only has the University at present a strong staff of classical teachers but that the policy of the Provost is to foster liberal studies, to give his attention to the college rather than to the technical schools. It is well that it should be so, it is far easier to make a lawyer or a doctor than it is to make a man of full rounded character and intellectual development.

Success then to the Provost in the work he has

laid out for himself, and may his administration continue to be, as it has begun, a blessing to our Alma Mater, entitling him to the gratitude of all her sons, past, present and to come.

And for the University herself, dear Pennsylvania—I but voice the feelings and belief of the society which I represent, when I say that great as she is, a greater future lies before her, and that as she goes from success to success, as she widens her borders and deepens her foundations of instruction, when her name is carried to the end of the world by the achievements of her teachers and sons in science or in scholarship, or when, represented upon the field of manly sport, her undergraduates achieve victories, the result of self-devotion and self-denial, or bear themselves as men and gentlemen in the hour of defeat, under all these circumstances, whether the result of honest effort be great or small, in lofty or in lowly fields, there will go up from her Alumni heartfelt plaudits, and—GOD BLESS PENNSYLVANIA!



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